

REMARKS

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 18 and 19. As well, Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended to the undersigned during the telephone conferences had on May 22 and 27, 2003 respectfully.

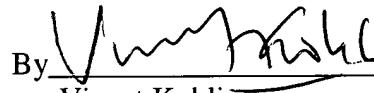
As noted during the teleconferences, dependent claims 14 and 16 depend from claim 1, which is in a condition for allowance. As well, claims 8 and 9 are dependent from claims 7 and 8 respectfully, of which claim 7 has been deemed allowable. Consequently, since the independent claims are allowable, the claims dependent therefrom should as well be allowable for the reasons that the independent claims are allowable as well as for the recitations contained in the dependent claims.

For all the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the aforementioned claims are allowable. In view of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be of value, he is requested to call the undersigned counsel at the number listed below.

Any additional fees required in connection with this submission may be taken from Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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